

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 11, 2015

**Committee Members Present:** Tracey Vasile, Cal Calnan, Patrick Mosesso, Kristin Papianou, Sue Dring, Heidi Krockta, John Chlebek, Thom Freeman

**Absent:** Javed Hussain, Monica Fisler, Larry Stern

**Others Present:** Randy Scollins, Mary Beth, Lorrain Brue, Ginny Coppola, Roger Hill, Judy , Bob Boette, Bill Keagan

Notes taken by: Maham Zia

The meeting was brought to order at 7:04 by Tracey.

**7:05PM Discussion and Vote on Town Warrant Articles—**

*Article 15*

**Kristin motioned to accept Article 15 as written and John seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

*Article 16*

**John motioned to accept Article 16 as written and Kristin seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

*Article 17*

**Kristin motioned to accept Article 17 as written and John seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

*Article 18*

**Kristin motioned to accept Article 18 as written and John seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

*Article 19*

**John motioned to accept Article 19 as written and Cal seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

*Article 21*

Sue said that she hasn't looked at the language yet and asked that we hold off.

*Article 22*

**John motioned to accept Article 22 as written and Kristin seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

*Article 23*

Sue asked how Adcom voting works in light of the Planning Board. Tracey and Randy had a discussion about how the issue. It was decided that Article 23 could be accepted with contingencies rather than waiting to vote later.

**Cal motioned to accept Article 23 contingent upon the requirements put forward by planning board and town engineer and John seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0 (Thom joined the meeting.)**

*Article 24*

**Heidi motioned to accept Article 24 contingent upon the requirements put forward by the Planning Board and Town Engineer and Cal seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

*Article 8*

**Kristin motioned to accept Article 8 as written and Cal seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### **7:10 PM Discussion and Vote on Budget—**

*Animal Control Budget Department 292*

Heidi asked if the questions regarding gas prices in previous meetings had been fully addressed. Randy said that the price had been revisited and adjusted. Tracey asked if that made a difference in the final budget. Randy said that it did not.

**John motioned to accept the Department 292 Budget as proposed and Tracey seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### *Inspection Department 241*

Heidi asked if the amount spent on maintenance is usual. Randy said that it depends on the department. Tracey asked why so much money is being put towards the truck if there will be a new one. Randy explained that the replacement truck didn't make the cut last year so it had to be repaired instead. He added that there are three vehicle requests that will be discussed soon.

**Heidi motioned to accept the Department 241 Budget as proposed and Kristin seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### *Street Lighting Department 424*

**Kristin motioned to accept the Department 424 Budget as proposed and John seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### *Historical Department 691*

Tracey asked what the \$56,000 was for. Kristin said that it had been taken out even though it was not on the handout. Tracey asked what was in the budget excluding the \$56,000. Randy responded that the budget was mostly running costs. Randy also pointed out that additions will not be made until reorganization has been discussed.

**Kristin motioned to accept the Department 691 Budget not as written but as proposed and updated. Cal seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### *General Government Department 175*

Kristin asked if there is anything notable. Tracey responded that the budget is a little up but within norm.

**Kristin motioned to accept the Department 175 Budget as proposed and John seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### *Public Safety Department 235*

Tracey said that salary is up and electric has been stripped to central. Custodial is in the budget and is flat.

**Kristin motioned to accept the Department 235 Budget as proposed and Cal seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

#### *Library Department 610*

Tracey provided a summary: salary is up due to retirement and longevity, expenses are down because of centralized maintenance and the rest is flat. Heidi asked who the Library Director reports to. Mary Beth

said that there is operational reporting to town and that the Library Director reports to the Library Board of Trustees. Thom asked if pulling out the maintenance cost would affect the state funding received. Randy said that Jerry looked into that and it shouldn't have a net affect. It is common and a revision should take care of it. Tracey asked if we pay the new director would be paid the same amount as the current director who is leaving. Randy said that he would not (Double Check).

**Kristin motioned to accept the Department 610 Budget as proposed and John seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

*Highway, Tree, Park and Public Works Department 410*

Tracey said overall budget up. Expenses are up which has already been discussed.

**Heidi motioned to accept the Department 410 Budget as proposed and John seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

*Snow and Ice Department 423*

Thom asked what the lag time for receiving the FEMA funds is. Roger said it takes a while but Randy said that the Governor is pushing hard so we are being told to expect the funds earlier.

**Kristin motioned to accept the Department 423 Budget as proposed and John seconded.**

**Vote: 8/0/0**

### **7:25PM Questions from Previous Meetings—**

Tracey said that she checked on whether the Adcom needs to speak about the town clerk issue. The Adcom was told that it can decide on its own. Kristin said that we should discuss it whether we have an impact or not. Heidi said that she agrees. Thom said he has been approached about the issue and he would like to keep out. Tracey said that Thom should decline questions. Tracey said that if we all agree she can put it on the agenda and she can put it in the paper that it will be discussed.

Tracey asked about anything new on the CIP. Kristin brought up the lights in schools. Kristin said her notes indicate that the lights are a different phase. There was also discussion that this wouldn't take precedence over Town Hall or Burrell. Ginny said there was a point in the notes where it was said that Turf Field was priority over Burrell.

Tracey said she got clarification that they need lights to rent out. This would help with repairs over 10-12 years. She said that chances of us renting and repairing are low. Heidi asked if the Ahern field can be rented. Tracey said that no one rents that.

Tracey reached out to schools for additional clarification. Bruce got back to her saying that he was taken aback and did not want to provide more info. Tracey told him that their committee needed that info. There was back and forth and Bruce said they will be back to the Adcom for further questions.

Tracey spoke with Frank about the class sections being cut. Frank said Adcom can't vote for a budget higher but they can put their concerns about the cuts on record during Town Meeting. Heidi said that she needs to ask if they are actually cutting people because she thought classes are being cut. Tracey said they are because she asked specifically. Heidi said that cutting classes is not the same since it appears that they are adding staff. Tracey said that this matter can be clarified when the School Committee returns on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **7:42PM Jane Pierce Conservation Budget—**

##### *Article 14 Spring St*

Jane supplied background that 89 North St needed a lot of work and by the time they had the money, the property was too far gone and had to be demolished. This article would take money for 89 North St and put it towards repairs on 120 Spring St. Jane read over a list of repairs that need to be made. Tracey asked why we would make repairs if we are aiming to sell 120 Spring St. Jane said that things won't move quickly because there is an Article 97 property thing. She added that the investment needs to be protected. Of the three properties owned by Conservation, most have been demolished. Judy pointed out that 120 Spring St is also bringing in \$1,500 a month of rent. The house increased in value while the tenant lived there. The assessed value now is \$200,000-\$300,000 now since the tenant did a lot of work on the property. Judy said we need to maintain the value so we can sell it when we need to.

Tracey asked what happened if 89 North St. funds aren't moved. Randy said they will be dormant till account shuts down. Heidi asked if Bill C is involved. Jane said that he is. Heidi asked if he supports this. Jane said he is aware and she can't imagine that he won't support it. Jane said that the gist is that we have a rental revolving account but since we have fewer properties, that account is not going to turn itself the way it did.

**Kristin motioned to accept Article 14 as written and John seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

##### *Discussion on Conservation Manager Hours Request*

Tracey asked what were the hours like currently and what was being asked. Jane said she is at 27 hours and she needs more to do the work needed. Judy said that the work that needs to be done is required under the Wetland Protection Act. Tracey asked what the increased hours would be. Jane said she wants hours comparable to other department heads, 40 hours. Judy pointed out that the position used to be full time at a time but there were cutbacks. Jane said Attleboro, Easton, Sharon and Norton have 40 hours managers too. Heidi said that those are big cities. Jane said that size wise they were the same and they had 37.5-40 hours, saying that she got rid of the bigger towns like Taunton from her list.

John asked what the structure of the department is like. Jane said that there is a voluntary board. A secretary covers zoning and planning she is a town employee. Jane reports to Bill K. John asked if everything has to go through Jane or if the seven volunteers can take actions without Jane's approval. Jane explained that she needs to review and research the things that the board brings to her. She makes

reports for the commissioners. John asked if Jane's report helps run the meeting for the board. Jane said yes since she provides the expertise and puts information in a manageable form. Judy explained the science and expertise involved in Jane's position and how necessary it is for the board. John asked who says yay or nay, the board or Jane. Jane said she gives recommendations and the board has the final say. Jane explained in detail how the decision making works. Thom asked about rental income listed on the handout and whether those are annual charges. Jane said they are one time things.

Tracey asked how many acres of conservation land do towns that have 40 hours managers have. Do the hours correlate to people or to the amount of conservation land. Jane said they are not related. Roger Hill chimed in that the hours are not related to the conservation acres. He said that the hours are related to the projects that need to be taken care of. Tracey asked Jane what her background is and if she has a degree. Jane passed out her continuing education addendum listing the courses she took recently to keep up to date with the science and the laws.

Heidi asked how 27 hours came about. Jane said that she started at 19 and she has been asking for more and more. Heidi asked if the Wetland Protection helped add to her hours. Randy said that it supplemented the upping of the hours.

Tracey said that the difference is \$21,000. Patrick asked if we can vote on a different number. Tracey said we can vote on a different day on that. Tracey said she recommends waiting on hearing the governor's budget and then voting. She said it might be premature to vote now. John asked if the \$21,000 includes additional benefits. Randy said Jane is already benefited and this would only affect pension. Jane pointed out that a lot of her work is regulatory. Judy pointed out that all the other department heads range from 35-40 hours while Jane is stuck at 27 and they have been asking for this repeatedly (in the hand out that Jane provided). Bob B added that the projects coming in now are the hard ones because all the easy property has been developed and the difficult ones are left.

Tracey thanked Jane and said that Jane was very prepared. Bill K said that he supports and understands all that was said but he pointed out that conservation managers are not usually full time. He said he can see justification for having a full time agent here since Foxborough has a lot of open spaces. He said that he might not be able to support the full 40 this year but maybe in a phase by phase way, over few years because he sees the value of raising the hours. Bill K also pointed out that we need to be realistic about which of the things Jane listed will actually get done.

Bill K explained further that there is value in what Jane said and the other towns had the part time agent and also a full time environmentalist. Tracey asked what Mary B's experience is. Mary B said that Westwood has a shared Conservation Agent. Tracey said that the department head argument is strong even though Tracey was leaning towards no. Heidi said how many people the other heads had reporting to them. Roger H said that statewide there are a lot of differences. We happen to be in a very swampy and environmentally sensitive area. Roger said that if there is pressure to develop around those lands then that would be needed. Thom asked if she is the person who would handle that. He asked if there will be increased regulations from the state. Roger said that the trend is yes, more regulations. Bill K and Roger both said that the fees for the agent will probably have to be increased.

Bill K said that we need to know which of the goals mentioned will realistically and actually be taken. Kristin said that we are putting more money towards Rec salary for Deb. Randy said that that is distorting

because the money we are appropriating is similar. Tracey pointed out that we have to make the conservation decision independently. Tracey asked why we can't change the fund of Deb's salary to afford the conservation salary increase.

Tracey said that we will discuss and put this on the agenda and make it known since there are a lot of questions in the general public. We will reveal our research before the election.

#### **8:42PM Discussion on Taking Article—**

Roger went over what taking is. He went over some history of the Elm St land. Tracey asked if this is the one we voted on this. Patrick clarified that we voted on maintenance. Roger said that the company never bought land to put the power lines there. Roger said technically they can be kicked out so they came to us and said they would pay us. Roger said their own research uncovered a piece of land that is an easement that we acquired through tax. We would take it from imminent domain. The BOS would authorize the taking and put it through public hearing. Roger said that that is the only way we can get our 30 grand back.

Heidi asked if they really only owe us \$30,000 over the past 99 or so years. John asked what their access point to get in is. Roger concluded that the Taking is about the perfecting of the easement. Tracey asked if anyone was opposed to voting on taking Article 26 at this time. There was no opposition.

**John motioned to accept Article 26 as written and Thom seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

Tracey went over the schedule of upcoming meetings. Tracey asked why Rec can't fund Deb's fee by themselves. Bill K said it can be discussed but it is a revolving fund. Tracey asked if there could be repercussions because Randy committed to Rec budget but now they want to discuss some aspects. Kristin said that we can bring up the discussion that Rec has all this money and we are paying the director but we can't pay to protect our wetlands with conservation.

Randy said that the other option would be to reset the revolving. Bill K said that they brought up to Rec that if they funded the director's salary it would free up money to pay other. Patrick said he never understood who is authorized to spend the money from revolving. Randy provided an explanation saying that Bill K signs off on what can be spent. Patrick asked if this process went on for the \$4,000 that was donated towards the Skate Park. Randy said the Rec board would go through that. Tracey said that most of what is signed off is already committed. Randy said that they have refused payment there.

#### **8:55PM Review and Vote Meeting Minutes—**

**Kristin motioned to accept the minutes from 2/25/15 and Thom seconded.**

**Vote 6/0/1 (One abstain due to absence)**

**Kristin motioned to accept the minutes from 3/4/15 and Heidi seconded.**

**6/0/1 (One abstain due to absence)**

**9:00PM Adjourn—**

**Heidi motioned to adjourn and Tracey seconded.**

**Vote: 7/0/0**

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: March 25, 2015

Tracey Vasile

Signature of Chairperson